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Evangelism Conf. offers mix of speakers

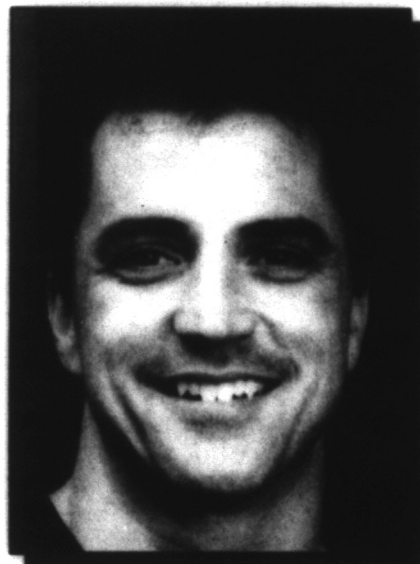
By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The 2007 Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference is offering a diverse mix of men and women who communicate the gospel effectively and creatively. As in recent years, the conference consists of the evangelism conference itself, along with a women's track and a track for senior adults.

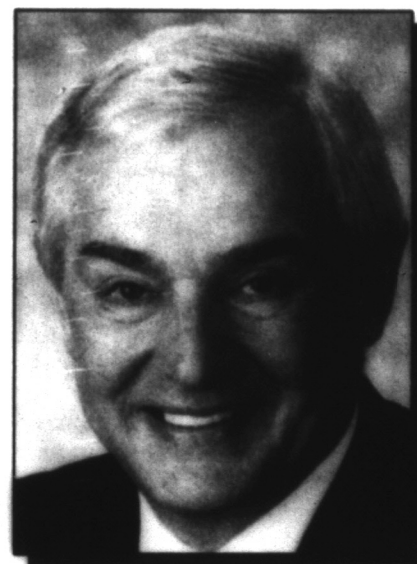
According to Don Lum, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), "the conference is for pastors, of course, but we want to invite laymen, especially to the Sunday night session." The conference will be held Jan. 21-23 at Pinelake Church, Brandon. "This will be one of the best conferences we've had," Lum stated.

The State Women's Evangelism Conference, Living Testimony, begins Jan. 20. This component of the event is sponsored by the MBCB Women's Visionary Team, the Women's Missionary Union (WMU) directors, Women on Mission, Women's Evangelism, and Women's enrichment ministry leaders of Area Five. Participants are asked to meet at Crossgates Church, Brandon, at 9 a.m. for Pray over Brandon, and pick up maps and receive other instructions. The conference itself is from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Crossgates, which includes workshops, a luncheon, and worship. The conference leadership includes Jaye Martin, North American Mission Board (NAMB) Heartcall leader, and worship by Lori Schuler and ensemble. Pre-reservations for lunch are required; for more information, contact Kathy Burns, (800) 748-1651, ext. 324, or, in Jackson, (601) 292-3319; email kburns@mbcb.org.

The Senior Adult State Evangelism rally is Jan. 23, 8 - 11:45 a.m. at Pinelake. The general assembly is at 8:45 a.m., followed by breakout sessions at 9 a.m. Conferences include One-Won-1, led by Sonny Adkins, former state evangelism director and pastor of New Hebron Church, New Hebron; Experiencing Evangelism Through Your Spiritual Gifts, led by Ferris Jordan, former professor at New Orleans Seminary and co-author of Grandparenting by Grace; When Senior Adults Pray!, led by Evelyn Williams, a volunteer and state prayer advocate, Hickory; and Motivating Leaders to Reach



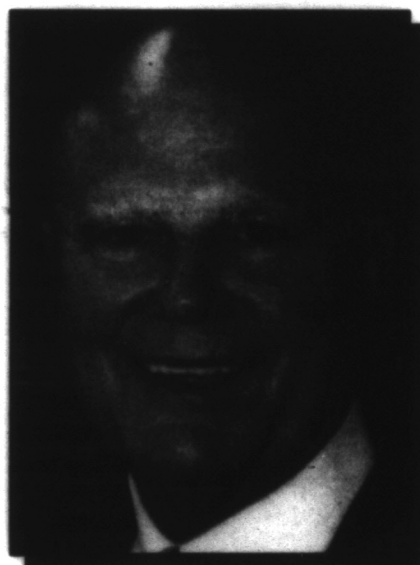
Henderson



Jeremiah



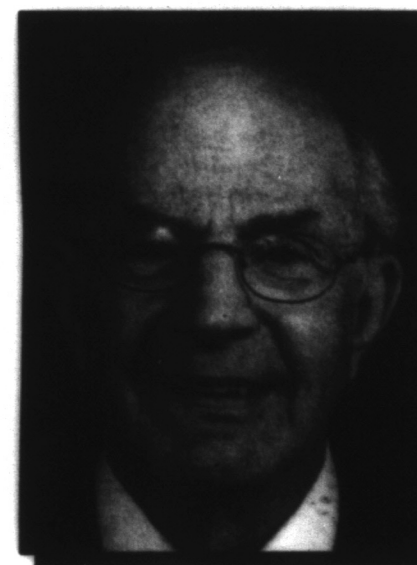
Wilton



Futral



Bowlin



Fish

Boomers/Adapters, led by Larry Mizell, former senior consultant with LifeWay. After a break, the worship rally at 10:30 a.m. will be led by Richard Baker, McKinney, Texas, former chairman of music ministries and evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, and Bo Baker, McKinney, who has worked in evangelism for over 45 years and has written the words for over 100 songs and hymns.

The Evangelism Conference itself begins Jan. 21 at Pinelake at 5 p.m. Worship will be led by the Pinelake music ministry and Jeff Askew. Lou Leventhal, a Christian illusionist from Canada, will perform. Leventhal is a preacher who is gifted in using illusion to demonstrate how fake the things of the world are and how real the presence of Jesus is. His will be an evangelistic presentation — literally hundreds have come to know the Lord through his ministry. Chris McDaniel will also lead in worship. McDaniel was a member of the country group Confederate Railroad before becoming a Christian. Chip Henderson, pas-

tor of Pinelake, will bring the message. Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the MBCB, writes, "I want to encourage you if at all possible to make arrangements to be there Sunday night. Bring your youth group, your senior adult group, and everybody you possibly can as we lift up our Lord Jesus and pray that souls will be saved."

"Last year was the first year for the Sunday Evening Rally," Futral states, "and so many of our churches and pastors in the Columbus area came and brought their folks. It was such an incredible success that we wanted to make sure that we built on what seemed to be a great experience for everyone involved. A number of people accepted Christ and all of us were encouraged, inspired, and challenged to be a more effective witness for Jesus."

The Jan. 22 session begins at 9:15 a.m. Praise and worship will be led by Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale; speakers include Gary Bowlin, president of the Conference of

Southern Baptist Evangelists of the SBC and Roy Fish, professor, Southwestern Seminary and NAMB interim president.

Monday afternoon sessions include breakout conferences with Mike Greenberg, of e3 Resources and creator of the Evangecube; John Powers, founder and president of John S. Powers Ministries, Cleveland, Tenn., and author of the I Believe series; and Fish. Following the breakout sessions, afternoon plenary sessions include music by Allen Harris and Karen Fisk, North Oxford Church, Oxford; Don Wilton, First Church, Spartanburg, S.C.; Futral; and McDaniel. Evening sessions include the Broadmoor Church, Madison, music ministry, led by Doran Bugg, and David Jeremiah, pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church, San Diego, Ca.

For more information on the conference, contact Lum at (800) 748-1651, ext. 280, or in Jackson at (601) 292-3278. Email at dlum@mbcb.org.



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What the world needs in 2007

When the Berlin Wall came down 18 years ago last month, the world rejoiced. The vast concrete and barbed wire scar running for miles across the German countryside, so vividly symbolic of the great divide between rival political ideologies, was no more.

The old Soviet Union quickly crumbled and millions of people breathed free for the first time.

Liberty had triumphed at last, and many of us believed that a Pax Americana would soon sweep the world. A young generation has grown up never knowing the fear that came along with the Wall. Many historians even referred to the coming era as "the end of history." They were

wrong. We were wrong.

Even though communism, the great enemy of our way of life, and its harsh dictatorships have faded in many parts of the world, it's still around — and in the meantime new, even more troubling threats have arisen to test our mettle. Thus it has always been, and thus it will apparently always be. History has not ended, as we euphemistically

HAPPY NEW YEAR... 2007

believed it had only a few short years ago. Quite the contrary.

The evil one, the father of confusion and strife and misery and death, would have it no other way.

Since those heady days of the late 1980s and early 90s, we have witnessed genocide on a scale not seen in more than a half-century. Political and tribal conflicts in many parts of the world have resulted in the slaughter of millions of innocent men, women, and children. Seething grievances, some of them many centuries old, have erupted in mass murder and civil wars. Religious differences have led people to kill people who don't believe as they do. Sadly, mass graves are still being discovered.

An especially cruel situation continues in the Darfur region of Sudan, where massive destruction of life is a daily tragedy under the apparent endorsement (or at least apathy) of the Sudanese government. North Koreans have starved by the millions, while the government carries on its pursuit of nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver those weapons. Iraq continues to be a charnel house, and other parts of the Middle East appear ready to explode at any time.

Anyone who remotely doubts the presence of the devil and his evil schemes in the workings of this world must have his/her head in the sand. He is real, and he roams among

us seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).

What the world needs in 2007 is what the world has always needed: Jesus. Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world. It just seems the world needs Jesus more and more with every passing year.

If the world knew Jesus in 2007, Tutsis and Hutus would join in brotherhood. Chechens and Russians would put aside their political differences for a far greater cause. All the ethnic groups in the Balkans would gather in friendship to raise one

voice in worship to the Light of the world. Warring factions all over the world would earnestly seek the Heavenly Father, not more artillery. Peace would break out everywhere.

The only way that will ever happen is if people everywhere know Christ, and the only way people will ever know Christ is through the witness of Christians. It's that simple (Matthew 28:18-20). If not us, then who?

The historians who observed the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 were right about one thing — history will end. They're just off on the date by a little bit. If 2007 is the year, may our Lord and Savior be able to say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)

At the Missions Banquet during the Mississippi Baptist Convention, David Michel, associate executive director for missions extension at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, used the words pentecostal and apostolic. He stressed their original meanings. I realized we have allowed others to define our words, and have ceased using good words because others misuse them. I suggest we reconsider the following words:

- **Fundamentalist.** This word came from the title of a four-volume set of essays by notable Christians published in 1909 under the name *The Fundamentals*. The essays countered rising liberalism and promoted five non-negotiable fundamentals to the faith.

The five fundamentals were: 1) the bible is truthful, accurate and infallible; 2) Jesus was born of a virgin and was sinless; 3) Jesus died vicariously for sinners; 4) He arose physically from the dead; and 5) Jesus will physically return again.

I suspect that most Southern Baptists believe these five fundamentals. If you do, then technically you are a fundamentalist.

Our modern media mostly use the word to refer to terrorists, or to any religious people who behave irrationally. Remember logic in school? All cows are mammals, but not all

GUEST OPINION:



Old meanings for new words

By Rick Henson, pastor
Oakdale Church, Brandon

mammals are cows. All terrorists may be fundamentalist, but not all fundamentalists are terrorists. However, the mainstream media usually describes fundamentalists as intolerant, slope-browed Neanderthals with little intellect and much hatred. I will not allow others to define who I am, or what I believe.

- **Pentecostal.** The second chapter of Acts describes the events that occurred during the Jewish Pentecost celebration, about ten days after Jesus ascended to heaven. The disciples were waiting in the upper room as instructed by Jesus when the Holy Spirit was given. Their power then came from the indwelling Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, they were terrified behind doors. With the Holy Spirit they boldly confronted the lost and performed miracles and healings.

The adjective pentecostal refers to the events of the second chapter of Acts. As Baptists we believe that we serve God in the power that He supplies, and not in our flesh (1 Peter 4:10-11). Romans 12:4-9 teaches that God distributes gifts to us as He decides, not as we may choose. We are to serve Him through His gifts and in His strength. Our best abilities are inferior and inefficient compared to what He supplies.

We have allowed a segment of Christianity to corrupt this excellent word. The New Testament teaches not only about the Holy Spirit, but also the Father and the Son. It instructs us in self-control and about working in the Holy Spirit. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to let God decide who gets what gift. Let us redeem this wonderful word.

- **Saint.** In the early fourth century, our ancestors in the faith began to teach that salvation was not by grace, as taught in the Bible, but by works. They divided sins into major sins paid for by Christ on the cross, and small sins for which believers must pay. The church then decided that some believers were super Christians who had an excess of good deeds to pay for their personal sins. For a price, our spiritual ancestors said they could transfer these excess good deeds, or merit, to the account of common sinners. These super Christians were labeled saints.

Though not in the Bible, this became and remains the teaching of the Catholic Church. However, the term saint comes from the Latin word *sanctus*, a translation of the Greek word *hagios*, which meant holy. In the New Testament, all genuine followers of Christ were called saints (Romans 1:7, 1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Corinthians 1:1, and many more). The New Testament referred to saints sixty times, and every time saints were regular believers, not super Christians. If you are a Christian, you are a saint.

Let us not allow others to define our words. Now, don't you feel better knowing that you are actually a fundamentalist, pentecostal saint?

The author may be reached at
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Christian persecution documented in Iraq

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP) — Several groups are calling for improved treatment of Christians in Iraq, whom they say are being martyred, persecuted, or forced to flee the country in order to survive.

Julia Sorisho Rodgers of Christians for Assyrians of Iraq said among the atrocities are the bombing of more than 15 churches, the kidnapping and murder of 13 Assyrian women in Baghdad in August, and the beheading of a priest in Mosul in October.

"A lot of people in Washington don't know who the Assyrians are," said Rodgers, who organized a Dec. 4 rally outside the White House to protest the treatment of Assyrians, who include Christians, Catholics, and Orthodox Church members.

"It's highly personal for me because so many of my relatives [are] there," added Rodgers, a Chicago native whose parents emigrated from Iraq. "They're suffering from violence, lack of jobs, and persecution. We're being isolated for our faith."

In addition to petitions circulating on the Internet, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has urged granting refugee status to these persecuted believers.

In November, the USCIRF wrote to Paula Dobriansky, U.S. undersecretary of state for democracy and global affairs, urging her to expand refugee options for the ChaldoAssyrian and Sabeen Mandeian communities.

It also asked Dobriansky to urge the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to resume full refugee status for Iraqi asylum seekers and speedily assess claims.

In a Dec. 7 letter of response, Dobriansky said the government is concerned about Iraqi refugees' plight. She pointed out the government has funded the International Catholic Migration Conference to provide emergency financial, material, and social service assistance to refugees in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

In addition, Dobriansky said the U.S. has strongly urged the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to accelerate the pace of its refugee status determination screenings and refer Iraqis who need resettlement.

"The U.S. will provide funding to key UNHCR offices in the region to enhance their capacity to process such referrals and has received assurances from these offices that they will begin immediately to make referrals," Dobriansky wrote.

However, the deputy director for policy at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom doesn't interpret the letter as offering any commitments to grant refugee status.

"While the letter suggests the agency has promised to



GATHERING TO WORSHIP — More than 200 people meet each week at the National Evangelical Baptist Church in Baghdad, which opened in January 2004. Reports indicate people are accepting Christ and being baptized each week at the first Baptist church ever established in Iraq, and a second church will start soon. (BP photo)

start doing that, we haven't seen that happen yet," Tad Stahnke told Baptist Press. "We still remain concerned."

It is fair to say the U.S. government has done something about the situation by providing funds to the UNHCR, Stahnke said, but other issues the agency raised have yet to be addressed.

Concern for Iraqi Christians extends beyond refugee status. At least two groups have started electronic petitions calling for special protection of religious minorities.

Christians for Assyrians of Iraq (CAI) started its petition (<http://ninevehplains.wordpress.com/>) in mid-November. The Canadian-based Council of Assyrian Research and Development has also posted a petition at www.cardonline.org.

Both call for creating a special administrative unit in northern Iraq. CAI says that will allow Assyrians and other Christians to practice their faith, speak and teach their language, and work their land without fear of persecution.

USCIRF Commissioner Nina Shea said these Christians are caught between supporters of the war in Iraq who don't want to acknowledge there are problems and those against the war who shun discussions of human rights.

In the middle are numerous innocent victims, said Shea, who recently briefed the Iraq Study Group about human rights conditions there.

"They are being bludgeoned by the Islamic extremists," said Shea, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and director of the Center for Religious Freedom. "Their

priests have been beheaded, churches bombed, and there's a recent report of a crucifixion of a teenage boy.

"The United Nations refugee report has determined they are being targeted for their faith. Although they represent about four percent of the population, they represent 40 percent of the refugee population from Iraq."

There is some confusion over the terminology for these believers, said Rodgers, who chose to use "Assyrian" as the primary identifier, although others are known as Chaldeans or Syriacs.

ChaldoAssyrian is a political label assigned to various Christian groups during a transitional period prior to adoption of Iraq's new constitution, according to Shea.

She said Sabeen Mandeans are a small sect who still follow John the Baptist; another that is neither Christian nor Jewish is known as the Yizidis.

However, the common thread for all is they are being forced to flee or live under oppressive conditions for the "crime" of not being Muslim, added Shea, a speaker at the White House rally.

Pointing out that in 1940 one-third of Baghdad's population was Jewish compared to only 25 Jews across all of Iraq today, Shea said the same thing is happening to Christians.

"There's a saying in Iraq that after Saturday comes Sunday," Shea said. "It's been in graffiti; it's on the walls. That means after the Jews come the Christians. The Jews have all left (except) an elderly remnant that's too old to leave."

"Now the Christians are being driven out. I don't see a way forward for them unless there is this administrative district. For humanitarian reasons, we need to grant refugee status to those who want to leave."

Looking back

10 years ago

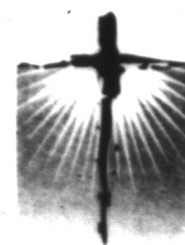
An auction is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Jan. 11 at the Clarke College campus in Newton to dispose of the remaining personal property from the college buildings. The college has been closed for four years.

20 years ago

A gift of land and timber valued at over \$700,000 is made to William Carey College by Joe Tatum, president of Tatum Development Corporation. The gift includes 44.5 acres of land, 19.9 acres of road right-of-way, and the timber on the land.

60 years ago

While the school is not co-educational, Blue Mountain College reports that nine pastors are now enrolled. They do not participate in student activities, but do their class work at the college.



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**THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my rela-
tionship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a lov-
ing relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritu-
al guidance.

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR OLD YEAR

The New Year 2007 is here! It is exciting for we have just been given 365 fresh, unused, untarnished days. There is always a sense of excitement, a kind of glowing anticipation when the New Year arrives. It seems to have some of the emotional overflow that filled our hearts at Christmas when we unwrapped the packages wondering what we were going to find. Except this gift, like the heart of the gift of Christmas, is a cherished present from God — time. What do you do with your old year? After the Christmas celebration especially with kids and grandkids there is usually a pile of trash that must be discarded. There are boxes, wrapping paper, the residue from meal preparation, and on and on it goes. You know what to do with that. I have known people though that saved boxes, wrapping paper, and a lot of the stuff that seemed to be leftovers. I wondered why you would keep all of that stuff. By the same token some people coming to the New Year tend to just take the old year and store it up with all of the other old years that are in their mental and emotional closet. One thing is for sure about the old year and that is you cannot go back and do, undo, or redo anything that happened. The march of time moves only in one direction. Even though we are pushed along into the New Year, maybe there are some things that we can do with the old year that will help us in the days ahead. The Apostle Paul, in Philippians 3:13-14, may provide some insights for us about the old year as well as the new.

One thing that we can do with the old year is evaluate. While we focus on the things that are ahead, this is a great time to spend a few moments looking in the rear view mirror. What did you do with the 525,600 minutes of last year? What happened to the resolutions that you made last year?



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Instead of making a new list of those things, think a moment and make a list of the things that you wanted to do, intended to accomplish, and were not able to pull off last year. In Philippians 3:13, the Apostle Paul says, "I have not apprehended," meaning he had not attained all of the goals he had for his life and he recognized that. Just to focus on the things that you failed to do or were not able to accomplish could be discouraging and demoralizing, but if in your evaluation you ask honestly in your heart and before the Lord you may begin to see from looking into last year how it got off track and make a correction. What could be done with just a little more commitment, better prioritizing of your time, and giving more significance to the things that are really significant? At times it is important just to pay attention to doing something, and it will make a difference.

At the height of those dark depression years of the 1930's, President Roosevelt called his cabinet together and challenged them in their area of responsibility to do something to help get the economy and our country moving forward again. What he told them was to try a lot of different things. The things that did not work, don't do them anymore; do the things that did work more.

A second thing that I would encourage you to do with your old year is to celebrate. Before you get too down and discouraged, pick out those things in your life that were in fact great moments of joy. Segment your life into areas of personal experiences, professional achievements, or private moments of

delight. In every person's life there are those wonderful sunshiny days when the atmosphere is just right and the relationships are healthy, but they are always mixed with days of clouds and cold, and it seems like you are battling with the elements around you. Well, pick out the good times and before you rush ahead thank God for those moments that meant so much to you and your family. No one is immune to moments of pain, loss, failure, and deep frustration. On the other hand virtually everyone can make a note of births, blessings, and unexpected touches of God's grace that cause our hearts to rejoice and our voices to shout. Take a moment to reflect on those warm and precious times when the love of God seemed to be so radiant. Celebrate!

Finally, may I suggest to you from God's Word that one of the things you need to do with the old year is to eliminate. In the words of the Great Apostle he says, "Forgetting those things which are behind..." There are some things of the year gone by that you just need to leave in the year gone by. Do not drag them along with you for they will burden you down. Clean out your emotional closet of those things that disappointed you, people who may have hurt you, or decisions you made that had tragic consequences. Be discriminating as you throw away some things.

I knew of a man who had lived a life almost as a hermit in his home. After he died they were trying to clean out all of the clutter he had accumulated over decades. There were magazines and newspapers stacked

in mountainous piles all through the home. The remaining family members set out to clean it up. Almost by chance as they started to haul off all of the debris someone flipping through a magazine discovered that money was hidden in the pages. Bills of various denominations and many of them large bills were found. They immediately begin to be more careful about what they got rid of as they searched for the small pieces of paper imbedded in the trash that were so valuable. The trash is worthless and needs to be disposed of, but as you look through last year keep the valuable and eliminate some of those things that will do little more in your spiritual or emotional life than attract bugs and varmints.

How do you get rid of that stuff from last year that seems to plague you? You can give and receive forgiveness. Instead of packing up all of those hurtful things, draping them around your heart, and pulling them along day after day, dispose of all of the debris by leaving it with the Lord and moving on. I know of people who have loaded up tons of hurt and tried to carry it for decades. The only thing it accomplishes is breaking their back and attracting other bitterness to come and find its way into the pile of pain. You cannot go back into 2006 and relive it, but one of the miracles offered to each of us by our wonderful Lord is that He can change those things. He can forgive you, you can forgive others, and you will find that the year ahead will be different because you took the time to eliminate some of the things of the past. The Scripture says that when God forgives us He forgives our sins and remembers them no more. Eliminate some of those things gone by and allow God to empower you to capture the future.

Happy New Year!

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Study: religion drops on television

WASHINGTON (BP) — Depictions of religion on broadcast television plummeted during the latest season, according to a new study by the Parents Television Council. In addition, negative portrayals of religion surpassed positive ones slightly, the PTC reported Dec. 14.

The analysis of prime-time programming on the six commercial broadcast networks for the 2005-06 season showed there were only 1,425 depictions of religion, a 39% drop from 2003-04, when there were 2,344 portrayals. During that timeframe, the portrayals of religion were 35% negative, 34% and 27% neutral or mixed, according to PTC. The context of four percent of the treatments did not enable a judgment to be made, PTC reported.

Among the findings of the study:

- Fox dominated in the negative portrayals of religion, with 50% of its depictions in that category
- CBS led in positive depictions, with 47% favorable toward religion.
- UPN was last, with only 19% positive portrayals.

The study covered programming from Sept. 1, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2006. The report, titled Faith in a Box 2005-2006, is available online at www.parentstv.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Martin Licensed to Ministry, Trinity Church, Philadelphia

1. J. Shayne Martin was licensed to the ministry in November by **Trinity Church, Philadelphia**. Shown are Gamble Martin, Martin, and W.T. Porter.

2. **Fair River Church, Brookhaven**, recently held a GA recognition service. Shown are Haley Nations, Rainee Luper, Julianna Felchle, Rachel McDaniel, Ally Francis, Kennedy Branton, Leah Thornhill, and Marlee Francis.

3. **Big Creek Church, Big Creek**, ordained Matthew White to the gospel ministry Oct. 22. Shown are Jim Warner, Chris Conlee, White, and Jimmy Gaskin.

4. **First Church, Leland**, recently honored the late William C. and Dorothy Watkins by naming their annual stewardship luncheon in their memory. The Watkins left their entire estate to the Baptist Children's Village and First Church. Shown are pastor Joe Doler, Jean Edwards, and Rory Lee.

5. **Indian Springs Church, Jones County**, hosted several churches at a Mission Friends 110th birthday party. The children enjoyed games, crafts, and a spaghetti lunch. Shown are some of the participants.

6. The wMu of **Trinity Church, Fulton**, served the Itawamba Community College students a Thanksgiving lunch Nov. 15, with over one hundred students served. Shown are some of the participants.

7. The children's handbell choir from **First Church, Potts Camp**, traveled to Bethany Church, Potts Camp Nov. 24 and performed for their morning worship service. Elaine Humphreys, leader. Shown are the participants.

8. The Lincoln County Association, **First Church, Brookhaven**, **Easthaven Church, Brookhaven**, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board are hosting a spiritual renewal conference for singles Jan. 27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at First Church, Brookhaven. Leaders include Dave Edwards, Oklahoma City, Ok.; Gwen Williams ("Miss Chocolate"), Picayune; and Jan Halford-Tawwatters, Brandon. Cost is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. For more information, contact Talmadge Smith, (601)833-8111 or linbapt@cablone.net.

9. **Goss Church, Columbia**, is hosting Greater Vision in concert Jan. 4, 7 p.m. Free admission.



4. Watkins Honored, First Church, Leland



5. Mission Friends, Indian Springs Church, Jones County



6. wMu, Trinity Church, Fulton



7. Handbell, First Church, Potts Camp

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NOV. 21 - DEC. 10, 2006

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Happy New Year
from the Baptist Children's
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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Why Am I Here?

Genesis 1:1-4, 28-31; 2:1-3

By Gloria Lofton

For the month of January our study theme is Creation Faith: Living by God's Design.

As we open God's word and begin to read and study about creation, let us remember the biblical account of creation must be understood as religious and not scientific. It deals with matters far beyond the realm of science. The author seeks to bring us in touch with the eternal God and reveal the sacred meaning of His being, His purpose, and His dealing with His creatures as He works out His holy will. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). This verse tells us God is prior to and distinct from His creation; that He is directly responsible for its having come into being by the agency of His

word. Its continued existence is dependent upon Him. As Christians, we base our moral and ethical standards on this belief and convictions.

"And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness" (Gen. 1:3-4, KJV). God spoke, and instantly His will was accomplished. Light was God's first step in completing the full program of creation. Light was the answer to the dominance of darkness. Without light the other steps would have been meaningless. The apostle John tells us that "God is light" (1 John 1:5).

When God looked upon the light, He saw that it was good. It was perfect, complete, pleasing and satisfying. Seven



Lofton

times this statement was made about God's creation. This is the same light men see and enjoy today.

God continues His creation by taking the materials that were in a chaotic state and in six full creative days made phenomenal changes. God's purpose could not be satisfied until His creative touch had made something of the chaos.

When we look on this vast creation and compare what we see with the writer's account of its origin our hearts should be filled with awe.

In Psalm 33:6 we read, "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host." In verse 9 of the same chapter: "For He spoke, and it was done. He commanded and it stood fast." Oh, what an awesome God we serve.

When God finished the earth and everything in it, He was ready for His most special creation. In Genesis 1:28 we read

that God said, "Let us make men in our own image, according to our likeness." This was creation's supreme moment. It seems God was calling on the heavenly court, the other members of the Trinity to center all attention on this event.

We know as God's creation we are put on a much higher plateau than His other creations. God created man to be immortal, and made Him a special image of His own eternity. Man was a creature with whom God could commune and fellowship. God expected man to answer to Him and be responsible to Him. Man was given the privilege of choice, even to the point of disobeying His creator. He was to work out His creator's will and fulfill the divine purpose. Man had world dominion given to him by God. He was to take care of the earth, be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

As God's special creation who was made a little lower than the angels, we ought to praise Him for giving us such a place in His plan.

I consider it an honor and privilege to be a caretaker of God's great earth. An earth that springs forth with food and water for our earthly bodies to enjoy. May we never forget to give thanks to God for His marvelous benefits.

May we ever be mindful of those less fortunate than we. Let us give of our bounty with praise and thanksgiving for all He has done for us.

On the seventh day God rested from His creating and sanctified and blessed the day. God wasn't tired from all His creating, but He knew our earthly bodies would get tired and need rest, because He made us that way. On the Lord's Day, may we honor God by renewing our bodies and spirits. May we enter His house with praise and worship, because for this purpose we were created. After God created man, He said, "It is very good." May we strive to live our daily lives in a way that He can still look at us and say, "It is very good."

Lofton is a member of Willow Grove Church, Collins.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Devising Strategies

Nehemiah 4:1-7:73

By Tim Alexander

In Nehemiah, the fourth chapter, Nehemiah finds himself overseeing the construction of the wall and gates to Jerusalem. He is on a leave of absence, being the cup bearer to the king. While progress was being made on the wall, verbal opposition arose from Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, and Tobiah, the governor of Ammon. Next came threats of physical attacks against the construction workers. Ezra and Nehemiah learned, when progress is being made, opposition is growing at the same time. Opposition is evidence that God is blessing. Opposition also provides opportunities for us to grow in our faith. Chapters 4-6 disclose many tactics used by the enemy. The tactics include ridicule (mocking), plots of war, discouragement, fear, selfishness, compromise, slander, threats, and

intrigue. Through it all, Nehemiah remained steadfast and led the people to finish the work in a remarkable fifty-two days.

1. Strategy to Cope with Mockery (Nehemiah 4:1-2, 4)

Sanballat and his friend became so angry they began to mock the Jews even before the work on the wall had started. Keep in mind Sanballat knew Nehemiah had the backing or support of the king. The only way to slow down the construction of the wall was to weaken the morale of the Jews. First, Sanballat called the Jews feeble. The word feeble means miserable or withered. "We are weak, but you are strong!" (1 Corinthians 4:10 NKJV)

"The world does not understand that in our weakness we can become strong in Christ." The Lord delights in using feeble instruments.



Alexander

How did Nehemiah respond to the mocking? Remember, Nehemiah was a prayer warrior. He responded to Sanballat's verbiage with prayer. Nehemiah did not allow the mockery to deter the plans for rebuilding the walls. He knew that he was in God's will for the construction to press on.

Is it unusual for the enemy to mock or insult a servant of God? Goliath mocked David, a shepherd boy who met him with a sling and five smooth stones. Jesus was mocked during his trial and while he was hanging from the cross.

2. Strategy to Cope with Attacks (Nehemiah 4:12-13, 19-20, 22)

As part of the strategy of the enemy, Sanballat threatened a military attack against the construction workers. The fear of enemy attack may have been worse than an actual attack. Fear has a way of paralyzing us. I have heard it said, "Fear is: False Evidence (that) Appears Real." Nehemiah wisely mustered an army to

combat any potential military action against the construction. Nehemiah also constantly gave God glory for any victory they received. Nehemiah knew who to give credit to.

3. Strategy to Cope with Distractions (Nehemiah 6:2-3)

Sanballat and his friend Geshem attempted to lure Nehemiah, by deception, to the Valley of Ono. The valley's name itself (Ono) should have been a clue not to go. Nehemiah was not deceived. He sent a message to the valley of Ono stressing the vital importance of this construction project.

When I was in seminary, one professor pointed out the three levels of doing anything: good, better, best. He challenged us to aim for the best in our lives. Nehemiah was focused on one thing: rebuilding the walls. Seven times Sanballat sandblasted Nehemiah with many obstacles, yet Nehemiah, focused through prayer and determination, pressed on.

4. Strategy to Cope with Manipulation

One more trick up Sanballat's sleeve was to hire

Shemiah, a false prophet, to lure Nehemiah to the temple. Again, Nehemiah was not manipulated. Nehemiah knew he was not a priest and could not legitimately enter the temple. Nehemiah refused Shemiah's offer. Sanballat knew if the leader of this project failed in any area, his followers would lose confidence in their leader. Sanballat slowly realized that Nehemiah was no ordinary leader. He tried seven different strategies to derail Nehemiah and all failed. Nehemiah reminded the workers that they were serving a great God and they were rebuilding the walls to a great city!

Battling and building were a part of Nehemiah's life, and it is part of our Christian life as well.

Our battle is not against flesh and blood, we are fighting a spiritual battle against the evil one. As we are in battle remember, "be not weary in well doing." (2 Thessalonians 3:13b) Our focus should be in building others up, ministering to them through encouragement, prayer and agape love.

Alexander is Minister of Education, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible. Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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T OJ OFYSO OAZ GJLRO,
NSL PLRTAATAR OAZ NSL
LAZTAR, HOTNS NSL
FGEZ, CSIQS TH, OAZ
CSTQS COH, OAZ CSTQS
TH NG QGJL, NSL
OFJTRSNB.

ELDLFONTGA GAL: LTRSN

Clue: R = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Timothy One: Four.



2. BSU Missions Team, BMC



3. December Commencement, MC

1. **Mississippi State University** BSU students are available for a variety of ministry opportunities. Fishermen, a coed ensemble, sings a variety of music including contemporary, traditional, and praise/worship; Drawn Together is a worship team that leads in Sunday worship services, youth events, D-Nows, and other events; Overflow is a creative worship team that uses sign language and interpretive movement to lead worship; and the Worship Team, which consists of live instruments and vocalists who lead praise and worship for Priority, the weekly BSU

meeting. For scheduling information, call the MSU BSU at (662)323-5761 with a list of possible dates.

2. Members of **Blue Mountain College's** Baptist Student Union spent part of their Christmas break in Texas at Mission Arlington, an outreach effort started by retired missionary Tillie Burgin in 1986. The students worked at the Christmas Store and Adopt-a-Family where thousands of Arlington, Tex. residents came for much needed assistance during the holidays. Members of the mission team included: (back row, left to right) Kayla Otts, Ripley; Ashley Reeder,

Thaxton; Christina Teel, Red Banks; Rebecca Stenger, Poplarville; Korrie Stanton, Potts Camp; Stephanie Bilbo, Carriere; Angela Bell, Lake Village, Ark.; Jocelyn Panter, Hazel Green, Al.; Ashley Hollingsworth, Nesbit; Maria Teel, BMC Director of Admissions; (front row, left to right) Carey Hamblin, New Albany; Jeff Smith, Saltillo; Donald Lawler, Aberdeen.

3. **Mississippi College** held the December 2006 graduation commencement ceremonies on December 15 in A. E. Wood Coliseum. Degrees were conferred upon approximately 250 students from the Bachelors degree

program, the Graduate School, and the Mississippi College School of Law. William Wheeler, of Clinton, professor and chair for the Department of Psychology and Counseling, and the 2005-06 Distinguished Professor of the Year, brought the commencement address. Don Causey, of Madison, instructor in the School of Business, brought the invocation. Russ Brashear, of Clinton, Instructor in the Department of Communication and manager of WHJT Radio Station, gave the benediction. Shown from left are Wheeler; Lee Royce, President of Mississippi College; Causey; and Brashear.

MS POSITIONS

AUBURN BAPTIST CHURCH TUPELO, Miss., is seeking a full-time Minister of Children/Education. All applicants please submit resume to Auburn Baptist Church 1138 Road 931 Tupelo, MS 38804.

ROSE HILL FBC, ROSE HILL, MISS., is seeking a bivocational worship leader/minister of music. Please send resumes to Rose Hill FBC P.O. Box 1 Rose Hill, MS 39356, attn: Worship

Leader search committee. You may email to: ebmartin@bayspringstel.net or view our website: www.rosehillfbc.org. Pastor: Bro. Eddie Martin.

THE METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is seeking resumes for the position of Associational Missions Director. Metro Association comprises Hinds and Madison counties. MBA has 82 churches and over 70,000 members. Resumes

may be sent to: Search Committee; 6530 Dogwood View Parkway; Jackson, MS 39213. Deadline for receiving resumes is March 1, 2007.

EAST PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH in Philadelphia, Miss., is seeking a student/youth minister. Seminary degree preferred. If interested, please send resume to mcheatham@choctaw.org or call Mark Cheatham at (601) 650-9271.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH Insurance for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT with a minimum of two years experience sought to coordinate fund-raising for residential ministry to senior adults and developmentally disabled adults. Send resumes with references by January 15, 2007, to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc., P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024 or e-mail to kcooper@tnbaptist.org.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970. **SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON**, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROSSETT, ARKANSAS, is seeking a full-time children's minister. Resumes may be sent to 701 Main Street, Crossett, AR 71635.

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ASHLEY COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION of Crossett, Arkansas is accepting resumes for the position of Associational Missionary. This is a full time position that consists of serving 25 churches in Southeast Arkansas. Deadline for receiving resumes is March 1, 2007. Send Resumes to: Search Committee, Ashley Baptist Association, 1547 Hwy. 52W, Crossett, Arkansas, 71635 or email to acba9395@alltel.net.

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GULF FRONT 2 BEDROOM CONDO in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida on Okaloosa Island. Call Lucy at (770) 831-3651 for more information or email SGLucy@wmconnect.com.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 CENTS interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH, Pineville in Smith County, invites anyone interested in purchasing a stained glass window to contact Mrs. Patricia Wilkerson at (601) 789-5364. Installations of the windows will be in early 2007.

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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SINCE 1877

11, 2007

VOL. 131

No. 2

Offering to support Memorial to Missing

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

As the 34th anniversary nears for the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion across America, Mississippi Baptists are planning a special offering for their Memorial to the Missing designed to draw attention to the 50 million babies that have died since the court's ruling.

Located at the northwest corner of the Baptist Building in Jackson, the Memorial is a massive glass container engineered to hold 50 million pennies — one penny for each of the missing babies who have been victims of legalized abortion. The Memorial currently contains about 25,000,000 pennies given by members of churches affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"The special offering is to complete our goal of 50 million pennies for the Memorial. Mississippi is recognized as a national leader in defending the rights of the unborn, and the Memorial is a way to let the nation — and the world — know where Mississippi Baptists stand on this issue," said Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, which is spearheading the campaign.

Every church affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention will soon be receiving a package containing specially-designed bulletin inserts and envelopes for the offering, Porter said.

"We are suggesting that churches collect the offering on the January 21 anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, which falls this year on the Sunday that we will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday across the Southern Baptist Convention — but the offering would be welcomed any time a church can work it into their schedule.

"It is important to know that your church need not collect pennies. Any gift designated to the Memorial will be converted to pennies upon receipt and made a part of the Memorial," Porter pointed out.

When the Memorial to the Missing campaign is completed and the container is filled with 50 million pennies, the \$500,000 represented by the pennies will be placed in an endowment with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation for the support of pro-life causes, according to Porter.



MEMORIAL PENNIES — Mississippi Baptist Convention Board employee volunteers work to load and sort pennies given for the Memorial to the Missing in Jackson, which is designed to draw attention to the 50 million babies who are missing since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in all fifty states in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling. Mississippi Baptists are about halfway to their goal of filling the glass container with 50 million pennies — one penny for each baby missing as a result of legalized abortion. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Some of the uses of the endowment proceeds as envisioned by Porter include funding for Crisis Pregnancy Centers operated by Mississippi Baptist churches, and the purchase of equipment such as computerized ultrasound machines that will allow expectant mothers struggling with an abortion decision to actually see their babies developing.

"I want to express my deep appreciation for the thousands of Mississippi Baptists who have worked so diligently and given so sacrificially to fill the

Memorial and help make this important statement about how we feel about the 50 million missing babies," Porter said. "After the special offering, we will continue to receive gifts until the Memorial is filled and the whole world knows the stand Mississippi Baptists have taken."

For more information, contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: rwood@christianaction.com.

Miss. CP finishes strong

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in fiscal 2006 (January-December) increased more than four percent over 2005 and set a new all-time record, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. Mississippi Baptists gave \$33,638,978 to Mississippi CP, which was \$1,316,275 more than the previous year and \$2,324,487, or 7.4%, over the CP budget approved by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The December monthly total of \$2,432,310, was \$574,202, or 19.1%, lower than the \$3,006,512 given the previous month and \$133,748, or 5.2% less than the total given in December 2005. The 2007 Mississippi CP budget approved by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention is \$33,188,934, an increase of 5.99% over the 2006 budget. A total of \$2,765,745 will be needed each month to meet the budget for 2007. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP helps fund such programs as Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference January 21-22 at Pinelake Church, Brandon.

SBC CP up for month, year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — December contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) totaled \$16,222,275, 2.9% higher than the previous month's giving of \$15,770,935 and \$1,599,936, or 11% more than the \$14,622,339 received in December 2005. For the SBC fiscal year (October-September), CP gifts of \$47,352,166 are \$1,927,076, or 4.2% ahead of the same period in the previous year. Designated giving of \$11,806,076 for the same year-to-date period is 11.5%, or \$1,216,747, above gifts of \$10,589,328 received at this point last year. The \$5,158,997 in designated gifts received last month is \$1,488,427 above the \$3,670,570 received in December 2005, an increase of 40.6%. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$47,352,166 is 96.7% of the \$48,987,106 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.





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The grandchildren they never knew

The letter arrived shortly after the Memorial to the Missing was dedicated. A couple from out of state was touring downtown Jackson on a warm Saturday afternoon when they came upon the Memorial on the grounds of the Baptist Building.

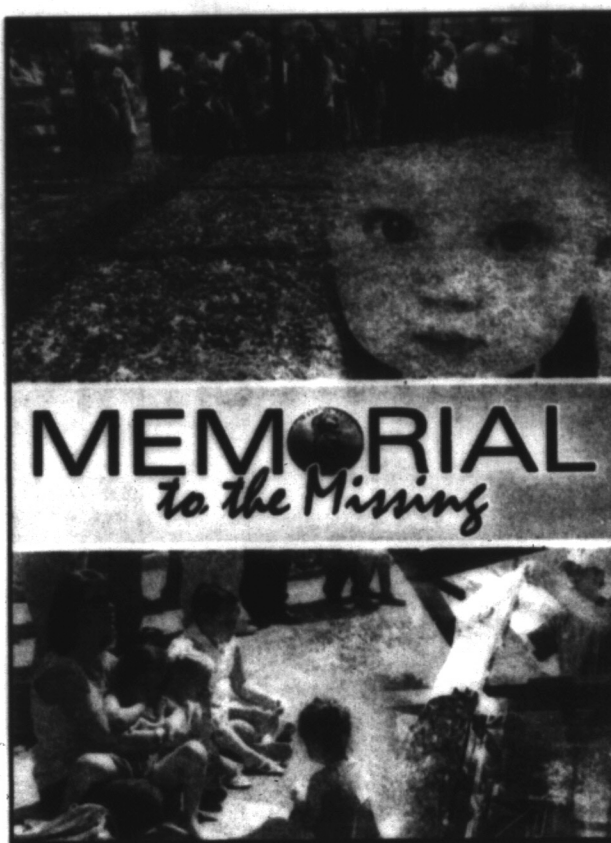
They were moved to tears by what they saw, because they had just learned from their daughter that she had endured an abortion as a teenager many years before. Weary of the constant regret, recurring nightmares, and stress of secret sin, she finally confessed to her parents. When their other daughter later learned of her sister's confession, she lowered her head and began to weep. Her parents knew, even before she could find the words to tell them, that she too had undergone an abortion years ago.

The letter went on to describe the devastation such news had wrought on the daughters' parents and their family, and how deeply all of them yearned to hold the missing babies in their arms. The parents wrote that as they stood in front of the Memorial on that warm Saturday afternoon, the sad weight of the world upon their shoulders, they dug into their pockets and found some pennies which they left there to memorialize the grandchildren they never knew.

Stories like that are often told around the Memorial to the Missing. Like the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., there is something strongly cathartic about the Memorial to the Missing. For the people who have been swept up in the tragedy of legalized abortion — not only mothers and fathers but grandparents and other loved ones — abortion inarguably claims more than one life, only in different ways.

Mississippi Baptists decided first to build the Memorial to the Missing, a massive see-through glass container, and then to fill it with 50 million pennies to represent the 50 million babies who are not with us today because they were aborted.

The Memorial to the Missing is about those babies, 50 million babies, who will never rest in the arms of loving grandparents, who will never know life as do the rest of us. It's about 50 million Americans who are not here, 34 years after the heinous U.S.



Supreme Court decision in 1973 that legalized all forms of abortion nationwide throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Thus have 50 million babies — some as small as a safety pin and others as large as a fully-formed child just seconds from birth — suffered lingering and painful deaths at the hands of the abortionists.

Mississippi Baptists have chosen through the Memorial to the Missing to remind the nation and the world that 50 million lives have been lost to abortion in this country during the past 34 years. The Memorial is not a statement on the often-bitter politics that surround the abortion issue, or the people who have been involved in abortions. It's about the babies who are not here. That's all.

Mississippi Baptists will soon have the opportunity to help fill the Memorial through a special offering. Bulletin inserts and offering envelopes designed specifically for the Memorial to the Missing special offering are currently being distributed to every church affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Beginning with the 34th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision on Sunday, January 21, churches will have the opportunity to contribute to this important campaign.

"We are suggesting that churches collect the offering on the January 21 anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, which falls this year on the Sunday that we will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday across the Southern Baptist Convention — but the offering would be welcomed any time a church can work it into their schedule," said Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, which is coordinating the Memorial to the Missing campaign.

"It is important to know that your church need not collect pennies. Any gift designated to the Memorial will be converted to pennies upon receipt and made a part of the Memorial," Porter said.

People who give to the Memorial should also know that the proceeds from this special campaign — \$500,000 once the Memorial is filled — will go to benefit pro-life causes in the state.

Mississippi has been described as the most pro-life state in the nation, and Mississippi Baptists have willingly assumed a large role in making that so. May our deeds continue to match our words, as a lost world watches. And may we never forget those 50 million babies.

While following the news, I could not miss the contrasts. Within a week, we have witnessed the deaths of two leaders with two completely different legacies. These men, Gerald Ford and Saddam Hussein, forever connected by death, were as different as the languages they spoke and the nations they ruled.

Saddam Hussein, characterized by most observers as evil and ruthless, was hanged at age 69 in a Baghdad execution chamber surrounded by judges and government officials. Gerald Ford, considered by many Americans to be humble and gracious, died in his California home at the age of 93 surrounded by his loving wife Betty and other family members.

Saddam Hussein ruled a country with military might, having no regard for the value of human life, while living an extravagant lifestyle and believing he was above the law. Gerald Ford ruled a country with humility because his country called on him to help restore the dignity of the law and the office he occupied.

Ford humbly gained power in 1974 through an orderly, constitutional transition when his predecessor resigned in disgrace. Hussein brazenly gained power in 1979, years after participating in multiple coup attempts, and refused ever to relinquish that power.

GUEST OPINION:



A tale of two lives

By Trey Graham, pastor
First Church, Melissa, Texas

Hussein was hanged because he broke the law, having been found guilty of crimes against humanity for ordering the killing of 148 innocent Shiite people in the city of Dujail, Iraq. Ford, who studied, loved and followed the law, died of old age with the enduring legacy of having graciously pardoned his predecessor, Richard Nixon, for breaking the law.

Ford spent 29 months as the president of the United States, Hussein spent 24 years as the President of Iraq. In Ford's short time in office, he demonstrated forgiveness, determination and grace. In Hussein's decades in office, he demonstrated hatred, paranoia and complete disregard for human life.

The character of these two leaders can be contrasted by reading what other prominent American political leaders said about them. President Jimmy

Carter called Ford, his onetime opponent, "one of the most admirable public servants and human beings I have ever known." President George W. Bush described Ford as a man of "complete integrity." Concerning Saddam Hussein's execution, Bush said Hussein received "the kind of justice he denied the victims of his brutal regime." Senator Edward Kennedy, not exactly a political ally of Bush, called Hussein a "brutal tyrant."

The obituary of Ford contains comments about pardons and negotiations and athletic prowess and a 58 year marriage to his beloved wife. The obituary of Hussein contains comments about mass murders and death squads and profligate living while his people suffered terrible poverty.

The former Iraqi leader will be buried in a plain grave in a rural location with a glaring

absence of glory, befitting a common criminal. The former American leader will be buried with honor at his presidential library in Michigan following a memorial service filled with pomp and circumstance.

How will Saddam Hussein be remembered? In short, most of his countrymen are happy that he is dead. Our world is a safer place because this diabolical tyrant received his proper punishment.

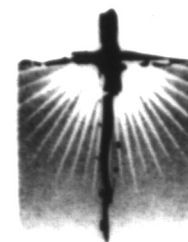
How will Gerald Ford be remembered? In short, most of his countrymen are sad that he is dead. Our world is a lesser place because this humble, unassuming statesman has left a legacy of grace and dignity behind.

What about you and me? Have our lives been used for personal gain or community blessing? Have we forgiven our enemies or lined our pockets? At our deaths, will our neighbors remember our sacrificial service or our arrogant extravagances? I could not ignore the interesting connections and disparities between the lives and deaths of Gerald Ford and Saddam Hussein.

Now, I wonder what they will say when you and I die?

Graham's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. The author may be contacted at trey@fbcmelissa.org.

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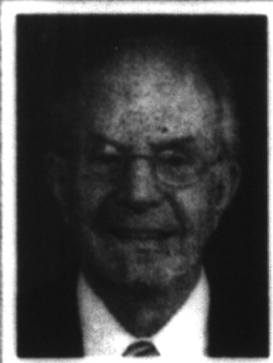
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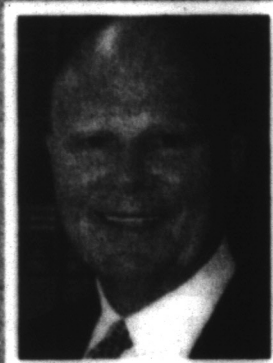
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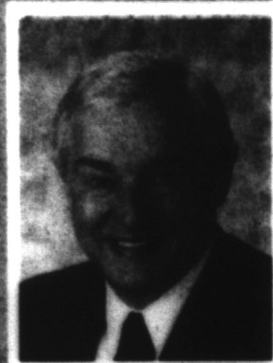
January 21-23, 2007
Pinelake Baptist Church
Brandon, Mississippi



Jim Futral
Executive Director
Treasurer of the
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board



Gary Bowlin
President of the
Conference of
Southern Baptist
Evangelists of the SBC



David Jeremiah
Shadow Mountain
Community Church
San Diego, California

SCHEDULE

Sunday Evening, January 21

5:00-5:15 p.m. Pinelake Music Ministry
5:15-5:20 p.m. Introductions
5:20-6:20 p.m. Lou Leventhal
6:20-6:50 p.m. Chris McDaniel
6:50-7:10 p.m. Pinelake Music Ministry
7:10-8:00 p.m. Chip Henderson

Monday Morning, January 22

9:15-9:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
9:30-9:40 a.m. Welcome
9:40-10:25 a.m. Gary Bowlin
10:25-10:40 a.m. Praise and Worship
10:40-11:30 a.m. Roy Fish
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Break for Lunch

Monday Afternoon

1:30-2:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions
2:30-2:45 p.m. Break
2:45-3:00 p.m. Allen Harris
3:00-3:45 p.m. Don Wilton
3:45-4:00 p.m. Allen Harris
4:00-4:45 p.m. Roy Fish
5:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner, Jim Futral

Monday Evening

6:30-6:45 p.m. Broadmoor Music Ministry
6:45-7:40 p.m. Don Wilton
7:40-8:00 p.m. Broadmoor Music Ministry
8:00-8:55 p.m. David Jeremiah

Tuesday Morning, January 23

8:00-11:45 a.m. Focus on Senior Adults
Music — Richard Dick Baker
Preaching — Bo Baker

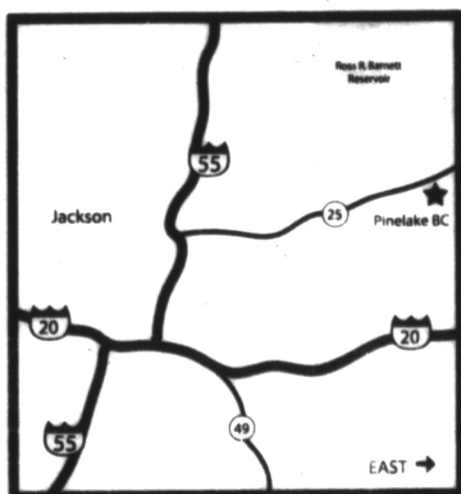


Chip Henderson
Host Pastor
Pinelake, Brandon

Directions to Pinelake:

From I-55 (Driving East from Jackson)

1. Exit I-55 at Lakeland Dr. / Highway 25 and go East.
2. Continue on Lakeland for approximate 10 miles.
3. After passing Grants Ferry / Castlewoods Rd., continue 1.5 miles.
4. Turn right at the Pinelake entrance.



SENIOR ADULT 3RD ANNUAL EVANGELISM RALLY

Tuesday, January 23, 2007 • 8:00 – 11:45 a.m. • Pinelake Baptist Church, Brandon

8:00 a.m.
8:45 a.m.
9:00 a.m.

Registration
General Assembly
Break-Outs:
One Won 1
(Seniors Reaching Seniors)
Sonny Adkins, former State
Evangelism Director,
pastor of New Hebron BC
Experiencing Evangelism
Through Your Spiritual Gifts
(How to Rewire!)
Ferris Jordan, former professor
of NOBTS and co-author,
"Grandparenting by Grace"
Baton Rouge, La.
When Senior Adults Pray!
Evelyn Williams, volunteer,
Miss. WMU; State Prayer

10:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

11:45 a.m.

Advocate; Hickory, Miss.
Motivating Leaders to Reach
Boomers / Adapters
Larry Mizell, former Senior
Consultant with LifeWay
(Chautauquas), Franklin, Tenn.
Break (Host: MS Baptist Foundation)
Worship Rally
Music — Richard "Dick" Baker, former
chairman of Music Missions and
Evangelism at Southwestern Seminary
McKinney, Texas
Noted for songs such as: "Here Is My Life"
Speaker — Bo Baker has worked in
evangelism for over 45 years and has written
the words to over 100 songs and hymns.
McKinney, Texas
Adjourn



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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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CHURCH ODORS

Have you ever noticed how churches have a distinct smell of their own? I believe you could blindfold most active churchgoers and put them in a place and they could distinguish without any hesitation whether they were in a house, a business, a barn, or a church. At times I have wondered why churches smell the way they do. It is not always exactly the same, but generally speaking a church has a uniqueness about it that sets it apart. I have wondered if it was because of the many people who have walked into the sanctuary hundreds of times and held on to the pew or held the hymnbooks, or maybe the choir smells from frequently carried and used books, or possibly it is the commonality that is in hundreds of offering envelopes that contain money given to the Lord. Many of our churches have frequent meals together, fellowships, wild game feasts, and banquets. The fellowship hall areas of our churches have a different odor, and it is always one that makes you hungry. Maybe it is a combination of these things that creates its own unique scent.

Recently, I flew to Montana and had the privilege of preaching at their state convention. Leaving Mississippi I had to change planes several times to get to my destination in Montana. The last plane I boarded was in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I found my assigned seat and as we prepared to take off I glanced around and saw people all over the plane who had on baseball style caps with an unusual insignia that was not the name of a baseball team that I knew. In fact, there were over 200 men and women on the plane wearing those caps. I wondered who they were, where they were going, and what they were doing. Since my seat was right beside one of the guys with a cap on, I asked him about the caps. He said, "We all won a contest, and we are going to spend a week in Montana at the Marlboro Ranch." I replied, "Really! What is the Marlboro Ranch?" He said, "Well, I have



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

never been there, but it is owned by the Marlboro cigarette company and I understand it is a fabulous resort area that has thousands of acres. Each of us won a free week's vacation there."

He explained to me that the ranch would provide special hunting, fishing, horseback riding, or just sitting around doing nothing but eating and enjoying the gorgeous landscape of Montana. He had no idea that he would ever win such a trip when he filled out a little card for the contest when he had bought some cigarettes and decided that he would send it in. One day his phone rang and he was told that he had won a free trip to the Marlboro Ranch for a week. They would pay all of his expenses to come, and take care of his expenses when he got there. All of these folks were winners but virtually none of them knew each other or knew anything about each other before the trip.

Of course, smoking was prohibited on the plane, but it wasn't long until the plane smelled like everybody flying that day was smoking. The fact was that all of them were going to be in the air a couple of hours with each other with the residue of what they had been doing before they got on the plane. The further we flew the more I thought that I was in the smoking compartment. While no one lit up while we were flying, by the time we arrived at our destination all of us felt like we had joined the Smokers Club of America. Even though I did not look like the Marlboro man, I was beginning to smell like him.

When we arrived at our destination and were waiting for the door of the plane to be opened so we could exit, somebody

hollered from the back and said, "Hurry up! We have got over 200 smokers waiting to get off." Sure enough as soon as they could get to a proper area many of them got their cigarettes out and were puffing away. As we parted ways, me to go on to the Montana Baptist Convention and them to go to the Marlboro Ranch, I thought that I had taken on the odor of the longtime smokers. While it may have just been the scent that filled my nose, I thought that when I got to the folks who were meeting me that my clothes and everything I had was saturated with the Marlboro smell.

It is interesting that God made us with five senses and possibly the most overlooked and unrecognized is the sense of smell and how odors affect us and stay with us. In the book by Tim Russert, *Wisdom of Our Fathers*, he tells of a lady whose dad, who had now been dead for a number of years, always was so protective of her. One day she went out to cut some bushes and picked up the hedge clippers. As she picked up the clippers some protective eyeglasses fell down that had a small note attached that happened to be from her dad to her. The note said, "Take care of those big blue eyes." The gloves that he always used when working in the yard fell down beside the glasses. She picked them up and instantly she recognized the fragrance that was her dad's. Her father had always used Aqua Velva and picking up the gloves with a lingering scent that was now years old, she thought of him and it seemed as though he was right there with her.

It is an interesting study to look in the Bible and to recognize the smells that you find

from one place to another. Do you remember the lady who brought the alabaster box of precious ointments to anoint Jesus? When she broke that little jar of ointment the smell went throughout the house. I just believe that when we come together at church there are good kinds of scents that can be given off that linger on and stay with us. I suppose there are also bad smells that may come from a rotten attitude or a bitter spirit that can stay with you. Sometimes it is that kind of engaging, thought provoking, good smell that comes from a sweet spirit, a kind and gentle word, or a gracious act that just seems to penetrate the air and stay with you for a long time, maybe a lifetime.

When we come together as the people of God we are to worship Him, praise Him, and offer sweet smelling sacrifices unto Him. It makes a difference, for when we do it no doubt reaches up to God Himself, but as with most smells it also touches the folks around us. When folks come to your church and they leave and go on their way, I wonder what kinds of scents have saturated their souls. The next time you get ready to go to church and are getting all cleaned up, freshened up, and gussied up to be in God's house, why not take the time to check and make sure that your spirit is sweet and your attitude has the right kind of odor because more than likely that will affect people more than what kind of tie or what color dress you may be wearing. The odors given off by goodness, godliness, and a pleasant demeanor will probably saturate other folk's beings more than you ever realized. While we all may want to look right, the sniff test may tell the real story of who we are and what we are really like. While the Lord told us *by their fruits you shall know them*, it is true that you can get a whiff of a thoroughly rotten potato a long, long way before you ever see it.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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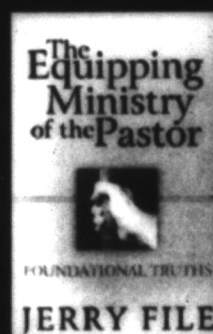
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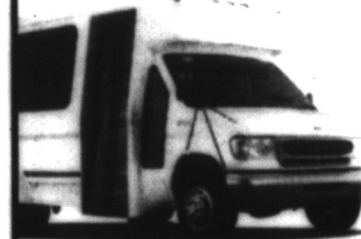
by Jerry File



What is a pastor to do? What is his primary function? Isn't it time for you and your church to discover (or re-discover) the Foundational Truths of what is church is, or should be? Find out how each Christian is called and equipped to function in the local body of believers. This timely book is distributed nationally by Spring Arbor, Christian Book Distributors, Appalachian Book Distributors and Baker & Taylor and can be order through any book store or you may order by calling 1-877-421-7323.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 11, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Witnessing Through Media

AWARDS INFO

PURPOSE: The Witnessing Through Media Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

WHEN: May 4-5, 2007

Awards Banquet on Friday, May 4, 7-9 p.m.

Workshops on Saturday, May 5, 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

(Watch our Web site for more information on the workshops — www.mbc.org)

WHERE: Park Place Baptist Church

5701 Hwy. 80 East, Pearl, MS 39208

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Division I

Small budget projects using volunteers as well as in-house production facilities.

Division II

Medium to large budget projects using paid staff or outside production house. This also applies to radio stations or other professional sound productions.

A. VIDEO

1. Church Musicals
2. Feature Presentation (30-60 minutes)
3. Magazine
4. Commercial
5. Promotional (stewardship, building campaign, etc.)
6. Music Video
7. Worship Service (broadcast and nonbroadcast)

B. AUDIO

1. Radio Program
2. Commercial
3. Special Project

C. WEB SITE

D. BEST FIRST TIME ENTRY

ENTRY PROCEDURE:

1. Each entry must include: An entry form, description and fee. **Cost: \$12 fee per entry** (Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.)
2. A separate entry form and fee is required for each category entered. Duplicate the entry form, if necessary.
3. Entry fee does not apply to workshop registration fee.
4. Submit program in the following formats:
 - Video — DVD, Beta SP, Mini-DV, or DVCAM
 - Web site — submit address on entry form
 - Radio — CD
5. Submit each program entry on a separate tape and clearly label with:
 - Name of Local Church
 - Title of Entry
 - Category Name
 - Original Running Time
6. The program should have been aired or viewed prior to March 1, 2007.
7. The judges reserve the right to move an entry to an appropriate category, add or delete categories.
8. All questions must be answered on entry form.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Call 601-292-3378 or check Web site for

ENTRY FORM www.mbc.org

Entries must be in the office of Communication Services at the Baptist Building no later than March 15, 2007, 4:45 p.m.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE MAILED TO ONE OF THESE ADDRESSES

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry
MBCB
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205-0530

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry
MBCB
515 Mississippi Street
Jackson MS 39201-1702

State Women's Evangelism Conference

"Living Testimony" Colossians 1:5-6

Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon

Saturday, January 20, 2007

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | Gather for Continental Breakfast — Get prayer maps, assignments and go prayerwalk/prayer drive |
| 10:30 | Worship Celebration I
Worship Leader — Lori Schuler & praise team
Crossgates Baptist |
| 10:40 | Testimony |
| 10:50 | Special Music |
| 11:00 | "Living Testimony" — Jaye Martin
National women's evangelism consultant, NAMB |
| noon | Box Lunches (\$5, make reservation with Kathy Burns) |
| 12:45 p.m. | Worship Celebration II |
| 12:55 | Testimony |
| 1:05 | Special Music |
| 1:10 | Calling Women to Share God's Heart — Jaye Martin
(HeartCall Materials Overview & Updates) |
| 2:30 | Adjourn |

For more info: contact Kathy Burns in the wMu at kburns@mbcb.org, 601-292-3324 or 1-800-748-1651.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

2007 Christian Education Clinics



Highland Baptist Church,
Meridian

February 2, 2007

Ridgeway Baptist Church,
Madison

March 3, 2007

Register by January 27 for Meridian and by February 24 for Madison.

For more info or registration forms:

Discipleship & Family Ministry
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Tel: 1.800.748.1651 or 601.292.3287
E-mail: dhicks@mbcb.org

Susie McNair, clinic coordinator
Christian Education Clinics
Tel: 601.932.6052
E-mail: gsmcnair@yahoo.com

Senior Adult 3rd Annual

EVANGELISM RALLY

Tuesday, January 23, 2007 • 8:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Pinelake Baptist Church, Brandon

Worship leaders

Dick Baker

Bo Baker

For more info: contact Discipleship and Family Ministry at gshows@mbcb.org, 601-292-3373 or 1-800-748-1651.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

February 1 - 3, 2007
Brandon Baptist Church
Brandon, Miss.



PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

Mary McDonald
Monarch Music
Knoxville, Tenn.

Jamie Meaders
Chairman, Music Department
Mississippi College
Clinton, Miss.

Laura Leathers
Tea Time Bible Studies
Pickens, Miss.

Slater Murphy
Minister of Music
Fairview BC, Columbus, Miss.

L. Lavon Gray
Minister of Music
FBC, Jackson, Miss.

Ian Richardson
Communication Services
MS Baptist Convention Board
Jackson, Miss.

Embrace
Contemporary Gospel Trio
Brandon, Miss.

Registration begins at 12 p.m.

Churchmen Bells Rehearsal at
12:30 p.m.

Mississippi Singing Churchmen
Rehearsal at 1:30 p.m.

Conference begins at 4 p.m.
Thursday with regular session and
ends after the banquet Friday
evening.

Special Volunteer/Bi-vocational
Music Leader Session begins
Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. and ends
Saturday morning at 11:50 a.m.

SPECIAL LADIES BIBLE STUDY LED BY LAURA LEATHERS

Friday, February 2
Tea Time Treasures
Session I - 9:30 a.m.
Session II - 1:30 p.m.
Conference Fee: \$5

Questions? Call the Church Music Department: 601-292-3267 or 1-800-748-1651.

NE SINGLE'S RETREAT

APRIL 20-21, CAMP HOPEWELL, OXFORD

Cost: \$30

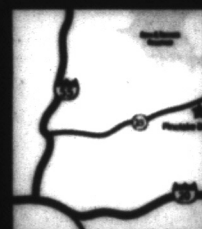
SPEAKER: DR. RAY PRITCHARD
PRESIDENT, KEEP BELIEVING MINISTRIES
Sponsored by Harrisburg BC and MBCB
Info: 662-842-6917

ESTATE Evangelism CONFERENCE

January 21-23, 2007
Pinelake Baptist Church
Brandon, Mississippi

Lou Leventhal
Illusions and Reality
Canada

"ACTS 1:8 OBEYING HIS COMMAND"



Starting Times:

Sunday — 5:00 p.m.

Monday — 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday — 8:00 a.m.



David
Jeremiah



Jim Futrell



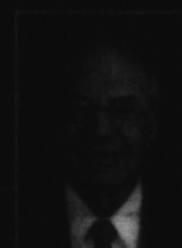
Don Wilton



Gary
Bowlin



Chip
Henderson



Roy Fish

Evangelism Department • Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530

SINGLE LIFE CONFERENCES

Thursday, Feb. 1
Tate Baptist Church
Corinth
(662-286-2935)

**SINGLENES WITH A
PURPOSE**

Glenn Shows, MBCB, Jackson
SINGLE-PARENTING

Dwight Faulkenberry
Fulton
Pathway Counseling
Ministries

6:30 p.m. - "Bar-b-que
Supper"

Adjourn - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 27
FBC, Greenville
(662-334-9452)

**FIVE LOVE
LANGUAGES
FOR SINGLES**

Thursday, March 1
FBC, Grenada
(662-226-3661)

**EXPERIENCING
FORGIVENESS**

Becky Brown, recording artist
and author, Raymond

"ONE-WON-1"
(SINGLE REACHING
SINGLE)

Glenn Shows, MBCB, Jackson

6:30 p.m. - Baked Potato/
Chili Supper

Adjourn - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6
Easthaven Baptist
Church Brookhaven
(601-833-2597)

**SINGLENES WITH A
PURPOSE**

Becky Brown, Raymond

"ONE-WON-1"
(SINGLES REACHING
SINGLES)

Don Lum, director,
Evangelism Department
MBCB, Jackson

6:30 p.m. - Chili Supper
Adjourn - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20
FBC, Kosciusko
(662-289-5575)

**PICKING UP THE
PIECES**

Miss Chocolate
Gwen Williams
renowned speaker
and author
Picaune

SINGLE PARENTING

Dot Day
Family Counselor
Crystal Springs

6:30 p.m.
Supper: Finger Food

MISSISSIPPI KIDS' CAMP

2007

PRIMARY COLORS

Camp Waukaway • Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center
• Vossburg, Miss. (Located outside of Laurel, Mississippi)

- Mississippi Kids' Camp July 9-11
 - Mississippi Kids' Camp July 11-13
 - Mississippi Kids' Camp July 26-28
- Worship
 - Church Bible Study
 - Hydro-Sports
 - Waterfront Spring Fed Lake
 - Recreation
- **COST \$150** ■ **FOR COMPLETED GRADES 1-6**

For registration information, etc., please contact MBCB Conference Office at (601) 292-3304. For program information, visit mskidscamp.com.



2007 VBS JUMPSTART

For all Pastors, VBS Directors, and VBS Leaders

A VBS where heroes are made!

LifeWay's VBS 2007, Game Day Central, will get kids in the game and help them learn how to become heroes both on and off the field by focusing on Jesus and following God's plan for their lives.

This will be a VBS to remember!

The VBS sampler and curriculum will be on display and available for purchase from LifeWay Christian Resources.

FEBRUARY 5, 2007, 9-11 a.m.
First Baptist Church, Lyman
14321 Old Hwy 49, Gulfport

FEBRUARY 6, 2007, 6:30-9 p.m.
Longview Heights Baptist Church, Olive Branch
4501 Goodman Road

QUESTIONS?
Contact: Sunday School Department
601-292-3294, 1-800-748-1651 or
aboydstun@mbcb.org

FEBRUARY 6, 2007, 9 a.m.-noon
Liberty Baptist Church, Flowood
5199 Lakeland Drive

On Display at Liberty Baptist Church:
• Children's Crafts • Preschool Crafts • Children's Snacks

2007 Young Musicians Camps

Blue Mountain College



June 18-22
Guest Director: Lois Ann Roberts
Music specialist and writer
FBC, Orlando, Fla.



July 16-20
Guest Director: Jane Ann Welch
Administrator, Academy of the Arts
Worship producer, FBC, Raytown, Mo.



RESERVATION INFORMATION: Forms available in Noted Events Book or online at www.mbcb.org. Reservation requests are accepted by MAIL ONLY. Telephone reservation requests cannot be accepted. Send all reservation requests to the Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, beginning February 1, 2007.

Questions? Call the Church Music Department: 601-292-3267 or 1-800-748-1651.

January 15

CAMP GARAYWA, CLINTON

Clarence Cooper

Pastor
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Grenada



January 16

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WIGGINS

Dean Register

Pastor
Temple Baptist Church
Hattiesburg



January 18

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, OXFORD

Gary Richardson

Pastor
North Oxford Baptist Church
Oxford



**9 a.m.
til noon**

COST: \$10

per participant for
preview and brunch

PREREGISTRATION REQUESTED

Send \$10 per person along with the names and church name, and indicate which of these three locations you plan to attend.

Send preregistration to:

MBCB
Discipleship & Family Ministry
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205

QUESTIONS?

Call
1-800-748-1651
or
601-292-3284
or E-mail
dbrashier@mbcb.org

FESTIVAL

February 23-24, 2007
Broadmoor Baptist Church
Madison

QUESTIONS?
Contact: Jane Ann Welch
601-292-3267 or
1-800-748-1651
or E-mail at
jane@mbcb.org

Clowning

Pray this day for...

January 12 - January 25, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

God's Universal Love - Jonah knew about God's grace but surely it was reserved just for himself and the Israelites. Now Jonah did know some things about our God, for he said, "I knew you were a God of mercy, full of grace, not easily angered, overflowing with love, and no evil will toward man, only goodness."

"The Miracle of Love and Grace" Betty Jones

Jesus trained and discipled His followers for three years to carry out His plan to reach the world. Recently a conference on Discipleship for church leaders was held on a major island in the Caribbean. Pray that these leaders will put into practice, and that it will be evident in the lives of those being discipled.

Sanctity of Human Life (CAC Emphasis); (2) State Evangelism Conference, Brandon, 21st - 22nd (Evangelism); (3) Praise God for young men like 21-year-old W in Zimbabwe who follow the call of God on his lives wholeheartedly as an evangelist and teacher. Pray for him as he enrolls in Bulawayo Theological college to continue his training.

Baptist Doctrine Preview, Camp Garaywa, 9 a.m. - noon (D&FM); (2) MS Council on Bivocational Ministries, Jackson, noon - 4 p.m. (P/LD); (3) Please pray for our missionaries seeking God's will about difficult issues. Ask the Lord to lead missionaries with peace when making decisions about "when" and "where" to be.

Bivocational Ministers/ Ministers' Wives Supper (Evangelism Conference), (P/LD); (2) Give thanks that two children in missionary Sam Park's Bible class have accepted Jesus as their Savior! Hallelujah! Come from non-Christian homes. Please pray that their faith will grow and that these children will be witnesses to their families.

Baptist Doctrine Preview, FBC, Wiggins, 9 a.m. - noon (D&FM); (2) You prayed with missionaries K and P for the salvation and/or spiritual growth of several the Lord brought into their lives. N, their neighbor, received Christ; C, the woman struggling economically and with family relations, continues to walk with the Lord.

State Senior Adult Evangelism Rally, Brandon (D&FM); (2) A believer in Libya using a taxi was asked many questions by the taxi driver who had heard a lot about Christianity on the radio. This believer gave the taxi driver a Bible and answered many questions about how to believe in Christ. Pray for the taxi driver.

Please pray for the three-member women's Xtreme Team of South America as they travel to the mountains for their next trip. The mountains can be especially trying, with the high altitudes and cold rains.

Praise God for the decision of a prestigious Kamma woman to follow Christ. Pray that her husband will also make a decision to be a follower of Christ. Pray that as she is discipled, she will boldly obey Christ. Already one of her neighbors has decided to follow Christ. Pray that a church will form in one of their homes.

Baptist Doctrine Preview, Oxford, 9 a.m. - noon (D&FM); (2) 2008 Budget Planning Meeting, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (FS); (3) Pray that God will continue to provide a meeting place for the Bible church in Paris, or possibly a facility of their own in the near future.

Area Keyboard Festivals: Tupelo, Columbus, Jackson, Meridian, McComb, and Laurel, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (CM); (2) Stephen Zachary is a Navy chaplain serving aboard a ship. Pray for military members serving around the world. Praise God for the chaplains willing to give of themselves to serve their Lord and country.

Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra Retreat, Madison, 12th - 13th (CM); (2) Michele Adcock is a consultant with the Colorado convention on the prayer and evangelism team. Pray for dedicated prayer warriors to become involved in praying across the state of Colorado.

One Voice Retreat; Jackson, 19th - 20th (CM); (2) Nigerian Baptists need continued assistance in training workers for evangelism, church planting, discipleship training, and student work. Pray to the Lord of the harvest for more workers in the vineyard and that His kingdom might expand in the largest country in West Africa.

"Happy marriages begin when we marry the ones we love, and they blossom when we love the ones we marry." (Chaplain's Notes by way of Christian voices) Pray that Christian marriages will be examples of Christ's love to a world so desperately needing to see the depth of His love for them.

"Living Testimony" Women's Evangelism Conference, Brandon (W/MU); (2) Allyson Clark, Northborough, Mass., New England Convention, asks prayer for teenagers attending that winter conference, January 26 - 28. Pray for high school juniors traveling to the Dominican Republic and South Africa in February.



State Senior Adult Rally

Thursday, August 30, 2007 • Mississippi College

\$1 at the door

8:30 a.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m.

Rally

Swor Auditorium

Visionaries Choir
FBC, Hattiesburg

Dennis Swanberg
West Monroe, La.
Famous impersonator,
author, preacher

10:00 a.m.

Break

Refreshments

Provided by the MS
Baptist Foundation

10:30 a.m.

Conferences

"Fun Time with Rick"

Rick Brewly, Clinton
Juggling, music, and magic

"Success to Significance"

for Senior Adults

Tom Crocker
Memphis, TN
LifeWay Consultant

"Developing a
Servant Heart"

Dennis Daniel
Pastoral Care Ministries
FBC, Jackson

Noon

Lunch with
Dennis Swanberg

Contact Eric Pratt at
(601) 985-3000
to register for lunch.

Lunch is \$15.95 per person.



Special
Guest
Dennis
Swanberg

3/1/01

Miss Laura Wingo
Parents: Floyd & Sylvia Wingo
South America

3/6/95

Miss Erin DeMars
Parents: Guy & Cindy DeMars
West Africa

3/13/95

Miss Mollie Foster
Parents: Mike & Miranda
Foster
Middle America

3/15/97

Miss Abigail Hewitt
Parents: Earl & Ramona Hewitt
West Africa

3/16/87

Miss Ariel Alexander
Parents: Mark & Karen
Alexander
South America

3/17/03

Miss Emma Grace Epps
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany Epps
South America

3/24/89

Miss Robyn Kyzar
Parents: Russell & Melinda
Kyzar
Middle America & Caribbean

3/26/00

Miss Caroline
Parents: Tim & Cathy
Central & Eastern Europe

3/27/88

Miss Allison Martin
Parents: Asbury & Hope
Martin
South America

3/28/92

Miss Heather Beaman
Parents: Brad & Lenora
Beaman
Last Frontier

3/28/03

Miss Emma Worthy
Charlie & Shannon Worthy
Western Europe

3/29/88

Mr. Jason Brown
Parents: John & Claudia Brown
South Africa

3/31/93

Miss Grace Holyfield
Parents: Michael & Patricia
Holyfield
Central & Eastern Europe

Due to security reasons full names or region of service may not be published. Cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS



1. Benefield Honored, Cornersville Church, Potts Camp



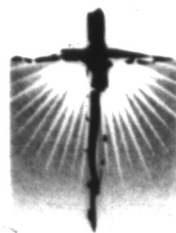
2. Children in Action, Pleasant Home Church, Laurel



3. Callick ordained as deacon, Athens Church, Monroe Assoc.



4. Harvison ordained to ministry, Pineview Church, Hattiesburg



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. **Cornersville Church, Potts Camp**, recently presented Billie Benefield with a plaque and gifts honoring her 35 years as church clerk. Shown are Allen Hancock, Benefield, and pastor Joe Epting.

2. The Children in Action group of **Pleasant Home Church, Laurel**, hosted a lock-in Nov. 10 with 30 children and leaders participating. The children signed Christmas cards to be shared with the military. Shown are the participants.

3. **Athens Church, Monroe Association**, ordained Tracy Callick as deacon Dec. 3. Shown are Harvey Coplin, pastor Scott Johnson, Callick, Wiley Morgan, and AMD Jim Harrington.

4. **Pineview Church, Hattiesburg**, ordained Neil Harvison to the Gospel ministry Aug. 20. He is continuing his seminary training and is available for pulpit supply or as pastor by calling (601) 582-0114. Shown are pastor Douglas Benedict, Harvison, and Marcus Kelly.

5. For the third year, a group of BSU students from **Pearl River Community College**, led by Stan Davis, helped the North Delta Association with its Christmas project. The group cleaned and repaired toys, sorted them by age group, and helped distribute the toys to 345 children. In addition, they prepared food baskets for 117 families, representing Christmas dinner for 384 people. Shown are the students.

6. **Wesson Church, Wesson**, ordained Albert Wilson, Phil Broome, and Rob Channell as deacons Nov. 26. Shown are Deona Wilson, Wilson, Cindy Broome, Broome, Mildred Channell, Channell, and Mike Carr.

7. **First Church, Potts Camp**, sent 19 members to do cleanup and fix up work in one of the areas struck by Hurricane Katrina Nov. 10-11. Shown are the participants.



5. BSU Christmas Project, Pearl River Community College



6. Deacon Ordination, Wesson Church, Wesson



7. Katrina Mission Work, First Church, Potts Camp

Seminary Ext. opens registration

Registration for spring classes at the Northeast Mississippi Seminary Extension Center will be held in mid-January in two locations.

On January 15, students may register from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Lee Association office in Tupelo. Courses to be offered in Tupelo include Pastoral Leadership in a Small Church (PM2258, \$200), on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m.; and New Testament Survey, Part 1 (NT3166, \$250) on Tuesdays from 6-9 p.m.

On January 16, students may register from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Itawamba Association office in Fulton. Course to be offered in Fulton is How to Understand the Bible (BB3100, \$250) on Thursdays from 6-9 p.m.

For more information, contact Michael Warren at (662) 652-3512. E-mail: mdwarren@dixie-net.com.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

8. **Horseshoe Church, Holmes Association**, presented the Christmas drama Sleepover at the Stable Dec. 17. Shown is the cast.
9. **First Church, Greenville**, held a Ladies Fall Fest entitled *Clothed in Christ* on Oct. 7, 2006. Shown is guest speaker Rita Sweatt, far left, with the local M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Preschoolers) group. Over 75 women attended.
10. **Hillcrest Church, Byram**, held its 2nd annual Pumpkin Patch, with a total of 345 children visiting the Great Pumpkin Patch. Shown are some of the participants.
11. **Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County**, held a Pastor's Day, expressing appreciation to pastor Lyndle Davis. The deacons presented Davis with a plaque, and the youth presented him with fruit trees with handmade leaves with notes of love and appreciation. Shown are the pastor, his wife, and the youth and children.
12. **Central Church, Brandon**, will host Hosanna Quartet, Magee, and Glorybound Quartet, Philadelphia, Jan. 13, 6 p.m. Free admission.
13. **Davis Road Church, Byram**, is hosting a Moms Day of Prayer Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The day is set aside for all women of all denominations to come together to pray for the children of the area, state, nation, and world. For information, email Patty Rushing at rushingjack6@aol.com or (601) 372-1485.



8. Christmas drama Sleepover at the Stable, Horseshoe Church, Holmes Assoc.



9. Ladies Fall Fest, First Church, Greenville



14. Young presented with Chapel, Calvary Chapel Church, Parchman

14. **Calvary Chapel, Parchman**, recently presented pastor Joe Young with a small chapel on Pastor Appreciation Day. Shown is Young and the congregation.



11. Pastor's Day, Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah Co.



10. Pumpkin Patch, Hillcrest Church, Byram

MS POSITIONS

THE METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is seeking resumes for the position of Associational Missions Director. Metro Association comprises Hinds and Madison counties. MBA has 82 churches and over 70,000 members. Resumes may be sent to: Search Committee; 6530 Dogwood View Parkway; Jackson, MS 39213. Deadline for receiving resumes is March 1, 2007.

EAST PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH in Philadelphia, Miss., is seeking a student/youth minister. Seminary degree preferred. If interested, please send resume to mcheatham@choctaw.org or call Mark Cheatham at (601) 650-9271.

ROSE HILL FBC, ROSE HILL, MISS., is seeking a bivocational worship leader/minister of music. Please send resumes to Rose Hill FBC P.O. Box 1 Rose Hill,

MS 39356, attn: Worship Leader search committee. You may email to: ebmartin@bayspringstel.net or view our website: www.rosehillfbc.org. Pastor: Bro. Eddie Martin.

AUBURN BAPTIST CHURCH TUPELO, Miss., is seeking a full-time Minister of Children/Education. All applicants please submit resume to Auburn Baptist Church 1138 Road 931 Tupelo, MS 38804.

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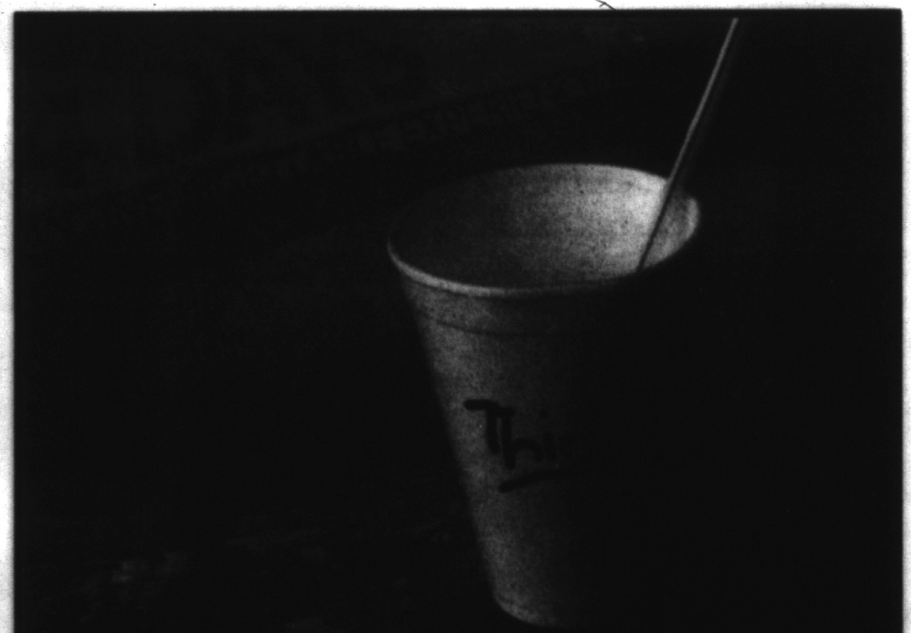
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ASHLEY COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION of Crossett, Arkansas is accepting resumes for the position of Associational Missionary. This is a full time position that consists of serving 25 churches in Southeast Arkansas. Deadline for receiving resumes is March 1, 2007. Send Resumes to: Search Committee, Ashley Baptist Association, 1547 Hwy. 52W, Crossett, Arkansas, 71635 or email to acba9395@alltel.net.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

What's The Big Problem?

January 14, 2007

By Gloria Lofton

This week we are continuing our study in Creation Faith: Living by God's design. Last week, we studied the question; "Why Am I Here?" This week in our study we will try to understand what went wrong and why, as we try to answer the question: What's the big problem?

After God placed Adam and Eve in a perfect environment, He put one prohibition on them. They could enjoy all the food from every tree except the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When God put prohibitions on us in the scriptures we know it is for our benefit, so we can enjoy life as God intended.

In Genesis 3:1-3 the writer began to list the steps leading

to the entrance of sin into the hearts of men. Though man was morally upright, he had been given the power of choice. The writer presents the serpent as one of the animals which was much more subtle than the others. The Hebrew word contains the idea of exceptional shrewdness. He had the power of speech and talked with his victim.

In Genesis 3:1b, the serpent asks Eve: "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?' The tempter portrayed surprise that God should be guilty of giving such a command. After this the tempter sought to break down Eve's faith by planting doubts and suspicions in her mind. When faith fails, the sure foundation of moral conduct col-



Lofton

lapses. It is only a small step from unbelief to sin and disgrace.

When Eve answered the serpent, she misquoted God by adding the word "touch" to His prohibition. She had entered into conversation with the serpent. He had her attention. He said, "You

shall not surely die! God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good from evil" (Genesis 3:4-5 NASB). The woman began looking upon the fruit as attractive, desirable and powerful to give new wisdom. She took and ate. The tempter wasn't needed after that moment. Eve took up his work and presented the fruit to her husband, and he did eat. (verse 6)

In these three verses, we learn the root of all human brokenness and evil. With all our efforts to fix things ourselves, we completely miss the mark. We need to study the Bible, pray, and seek God's directives. God

wants us to know and keep His commandments, but to know them doesn't ensure we will keep them. When we are tempted, God has given us words of strength in His holy words.

In verses 7-8, we see the serpent's promise was fulfilled quickly; instant perception was given. They saw and knew they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together in an effort to cover themselves. In the evening when they heard the sound of God, they hid themselves among the trees of the garden. Shame and fear was born out of their sin. Their loss of faith had subjected them to all kinds of woes. What they saw wasn't as rosy as the serpent had suggested it would be.

God pronounced judgment upon fallen man and the serpent in verses 14-19. It was because of their disobedience, not the plan of God that men had to suffer. We eventually have to admit our sins, and take responsibility for them instead of looking for someone to blame.

In verse 15, God tells the serpent, "And I will put enmity

between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." Embedded in God's judgment against the serpent is God's first messianic promise, God's guaranteed victory. Adam and Eve heard this as a blessed hope of redemption. God then banished the man and woman from the garden because of their disobedience. He set a cherubim and a flaming sword to confuse the way to the garden so they could not return.

We, as God's fallen creation, can find assurance of our victory over sin and death through God's wonderful redemptive plan. We should be grateful God takes our sin seriously, judges us rightly, and takes action to rescue us from sin's consequences. Through faith in Jesus, God's promised Messiah, we can receive forgiveness of sin. Please join with me in giving praise to such an Awesome God.

Lofton is a member of Willow Grove Church, Collins.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Rededicating Lives

Nehemiah 8:1-10:39

By Tim Alexander

The book of Amos mentions an interesting carpenter's tool—a plumbline. A plumbline was a guiding line used to test if a wall was vertical or true. The "plumbline" for our lives is the Word of God. Many times we measure ourselves to other people instead of the Word of God. God measures His people to see how "true" they are to the patterns of His Holy book. Nehemiah looked toward Ezra to be the spiritual leader or priest during this time of rededication of the newly built walls and gates.

1. Read God's Word (Nehemiah 8:1-5-6,9-10)

Nehemiah skillfully led the people to build the walls in a remarkable 52 days. The time had come for a rededication of

the wall. Nehemiah led the people together in an open square where he had asked Ezra, the scribe, to read from the law of Moses. One of the qualities I like about Nehemiah is that he understood his role as a leader. He looked for Ezra to be the spiritual leader so he asked the right person to do the right job at the right time. As preparation for reading the scripture, Ezra asked the people to stand. These people had seen the Lord work in an incredible way with the construction of the wall. I believe their hearts were ripe for a revival. A perfect situation for a renewal took place: the assembly was humbled by the Word; they bowed down and worshiped the Lord. The assembly began to weep although Ezra and Nehemiah urged the people not to weep, because this was a



Alexander

day of rejoicing. Nehemiah 8:10(NIV) "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

2. Repent and Confess Sins (Nehemiah 9:1-2)

Chapter 9 describes how the Israelites confessed their sins. Verse one reminds me of Jonah 3:8 (NIV) "But let every man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God." Sackcloth was made of coarse black goat's hair. As its name indicates, is used for sacks, but it was also customarily worn by mourners. The Israelites confessed their sins and separated themselves from foreigners.

3. Return to God's Ways (Nehemiah 9:38;10:28-29)

Chapter 9 is a summary of the history of the Jews. God has been faithful to the Israelites from Creation, to the call of Abraham, to the exodus and to the present. To demonstrate their commitment to God, the

people signed and sealed a binding agreement(document).

Chapter 10 begins with a list of brave and godly men, who made a covenant with God. All of the people, including the leaders committed to separate themselves from foreigners and to diligently obey the law of God.

The Israelites were in a specific community with specific limits. Separation from the neighboring peoples was vitally important to maintaining distinctive beliefs and ethical principals. The Bible reminds us we are in the world but not of it (the world). Too many Christians are immersed in the worldliness. It's time to focus more on God's Word than all the distractions the world has to offer. I am reminded of song, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in his wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

The postexilic community had many problems. Their problems were religious and ethical. The best way to solve these problems was for the whole community to have a wholehearted commitment to

the authority of God found in the Scriptures. We like the Israelites need to drink from the living water that can only be found in the living Word of God. We not only need to absorb it, we must live it, and we must put feet to our faith.

"For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12(NIV). Is it important to read the word of God daily. As I write this, Romans 12:1-2 comes to mind. "Therefore, I urge you brothers, in the view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what the will is-His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Alexander is Minister of Education, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

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Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

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ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Bibliocipher

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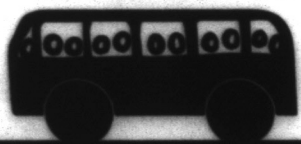
Clue: W = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Revelation One:Eight.

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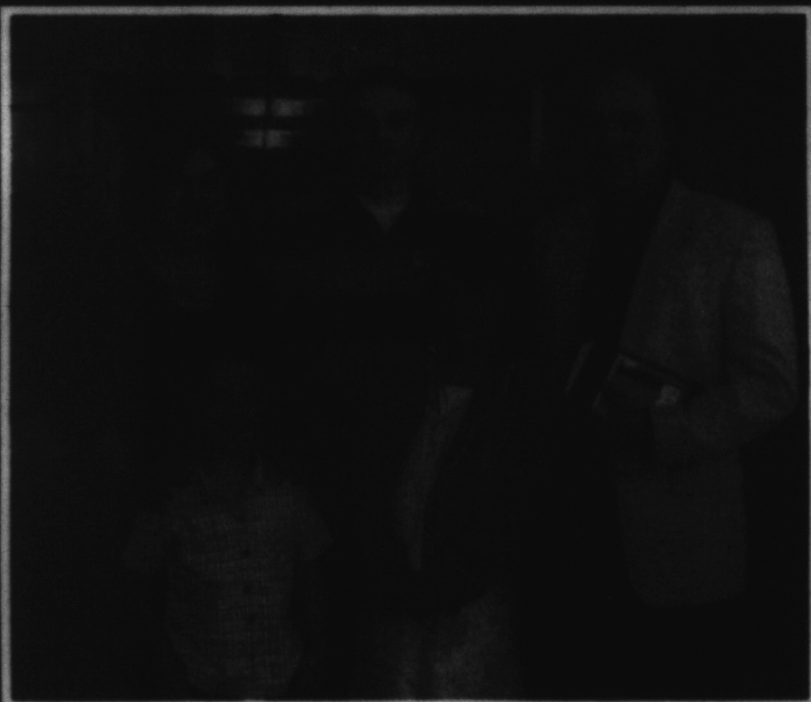
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STATE CHANGES



1. Kilgore family, Bethel Church, Newton

Bethel Church, Newton

2. Tuka Church, Tuka

15. A group of 10th and 11th grade girls from First Church, Magee, are shown decorating cookies for church homebound. Shown are Diana Brister, Hillary Gregory, Brittney Ainsworth, Jordan Zilla, and Mary Presley.
16. The RAs and GAs of North Carrollton Church, Carrollton, recently held a bake sale to raise money for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, raising \$165.50. Shown are the participants.
17. Auburn Church, Tupelo, ordained Chris Deaton and Stephen Cantrell as deacons Oct. 2. Shown are Deaton, pastor David Singleton, and Cantrell.
18. Spoken 4, a gospel quartet from Branson, Mo., will be in concert at Hopewell Church, Crystal Springs, Jan. 14, in the morning service; Raymond Road Church, Raymond, Jan. 14, 6 p.m.;



15. Girls make cookies for church homebound, First Church, Magee



16. Children's bake sale, North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton

West End Church, West Point, Jan. 20, 6 p.m.; First Church, West Point, Jan. 21, 10:15 a.m.; Emmanuel Church, Greenville, Jan. 21, 6 p.m. Free admission; a love offering will be taken.



17. Deacon Ordination, Auburn Church, Tupelo

COLLEGE AND SEMINARY NEWS

1. Ray and Betty Hannah were recently honored in a ceremony naming the Mississippi College Food Court in honor of the Hannahs. The Hannahs were recognized for their generous support and loyalty to Mississippi College. Ray Hannah is a 1958 grad-

uate of MC and a native of Forest and Morton. The Hannahs reside in Fairburn, Ga. Shown, from left: Bill Sones, Chairman of the MC Board of Trustees; Lee Royce, President of MC; Ray and Betty Hannah; Danny Rutland, V.P. for Advancement-Alumni; Michael Ward, president of the Students Government Association.

2. William Carey University students Tankya Simoneaux of Marrero, La.; Laura Eubanks of Laurel; Char-Lee Boyd, niece of Tanya Battle, and Tanya Battle, WCU nursing instructor and Carey Student Nurses Association (CSNA) advisor; stuffed stockings for the Jones County Salvation Army. The toys for the stockings were purchased with donations gathered by the CSNA and will be distributed to needy families by the Salvation Army.
3. William Carey University will present All Things New Homecoming 2007 Jan. 19-

20 on the Hattiesburg campus. Activities scheduled for Jan. 19 include registration from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Donna Duck Wheeler Alumni House, followed by a 50 year alumni reunion at 11:30 a.m. and guided tours of new buildings from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The MWC Heritage Plaza Dedication will take place at 2 p.m. The new pictorial history of the university will be signed by editor Donna Wheeler from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Students and alumni will experience Carey Olympics beginning at 4 p.m. followed by the Fiesta Night dinner at 5:30 p.m. The Winter Beauty Review begins at 7 p.m. in the Student Conference Center. Jan. 20 begins with registration from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the alumni house followed by guided tours from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. and decade reunions from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. The Bar-B-Que lunch is from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. followed by the Lady Saders basketball game where former

Homecoming queens will be recognized. The Annual Alumni Awards will be given during the Bar-B-Que lunch. The Crusader men take on LSU-Shreveport at 3 p.m. and the presentation of the Homecoming Court will take place during half time. The theatre department will present Journey Back to 1940's Radio Plays during the catfish dinner from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. To register for Homecoming and to reserve a t-shirt contact Ginger Toledo, alumni director, at (601) 318-6561, (800) 962-5991 ext. 561, or ginger.toledo@wmcarey.edu. Tickets for individual events can be purchased at the door. Tickets for all meals on Friday and Saturday are available for \$20 or for Saturday only for \$15.

4. James W. Wayne, III, Corinth, graduated from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with a Master of Divinity in Christian Education at Southern's 198th graduation commencement Dec. 15.

OBITUARIES

John Wesley Merritt, 76, of Hattiesburg, died Dec. 29 at Forrest General Hospital. Graveside services were Dec. 30, 10 a.m., at Highland Cemetery, followed by a memorial service at 1:30 p.m. at University Church.

Merritt was ordained in 1954 and served as pastor in several churches in Mississippi and Florida. He was appointed as a missionary in 1964 and served in Italy and Germany for 34 years. He retired as General Secretary of the European Baptist Convention from 1972-1996, and authored a book titled *The Betrayal*.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Merritt, Hattiesburg; two sons, Michael Paul Merritt of Alexandria, Va., and James Philip Merritt, Purvis; sister, Cora Joyce Davis, Hattiesburg; brother, J.P. Merritt, Hattiesburg; and two grandchildren.